

X-FACTOR

DAVID • ARLEN • MARTINEZ • VILLARRUBIA

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DIRECT EDITION

IN A SOCIETY WHERE MUTANTS AND FORMER MUTANTS ALIKE FEEL THREATENED BY THE WORLD AROUND THEM, THEY TURN TO THEIR FIRST, BEST LINE OF DEFENSE WHENEVER TROUBLE ARISES: X-FACTOR, THE PRIVATE DETECTIVE AGENCY FOUNDED BY MADROX, THE MULTIPLE MAN.

X-FACTOR



WITH HIS BACK AGAINST THE WALL, JAMIE MADROX WAS ACTUALLY FORCED TO DO THE ONE THING HE DESPISES MORE THAN ANYTHING: TAKE A STAND. BUT HE DID SO, WITH STYLE, AS HE AND X-FACTOR CONFRONTED THE X-MEN OVER THEIR COVER-UP OF THE TRUTH ABOUT M-DAY. FURTHERMORE, HE DECIDED THAT THE TEAM WOULD BE OFFICIALLY OPPOSED TO THE SUPER HERO REGISTRATION ACT.

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT WAS A BUSY DAY.

NOW, THE FOLLOWING MORNING, THE REALITY OF THE ISOLATIONIST STANCE JAMIE HAS TAKEN IS ABOUT TO SINK IN.

MEANWHILE, SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS IS UP TO WHO-KNOWS-WHAT.

OH, AND PETER DAVID'S DAUGHTER, ARIEL, WAS AWARDED THIS HUGE HONKIN' TROPHY BY THE LOCAL JUNIOR BOWLING ORGANIZATION FOR HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR. IT'S ABOUT AS TALL AS HER KID SISTER.

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⊗ SOUTH OF WALES, 1347

BRING HIM
OUT! BRING
THE CREATURE
OUT!

YOU HEARD
US, ANDRAS! GET
YOUR DEMON SON
OUT HERE--

--OR WE'LL
BURN HIM OUT!
HIM AND YOU!

WHAT
WOULD YOU
HAVE OF
ME?

WE'D HAVE
THAT...THING...
PRETENDING TO
BE HUMAN!

AYE!
HE'S THE CAUSE
OF ALL THIS!

OF ALL
WHAT? OF HIS
POOR MOTHER'S
DEATH IN
CHILDBIRTH?

OF
THE PLAGUE
SWEEPING THE
WHOLE OF
WALES?

OF YOUR LIES
AND ACCUSATIONS
AND MADNESS?

WHY NOT
LAY ORIGINAL SIN
AT HIS FEET WHILE
YER AT IT?

LOOK AT
YERSELVES.
FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS...
TERRIFYING A YOUNG
BOY OUT OF HIS MIND.
I'M SURE YOU'RE
EVER SO PROUD
OF IT.



WHATEVER
KILLED YOUR WIFE
IN CHILDBIRTH YEARS
AGO, ANDRAS...IT
WASN'T THAT THING
YER PROTECTIN'!

IT'S A
CHANGELING
CHILD! YOU KNOW
IT! WE ALL
KNOW IT!

AND HOW AM
I SUPPOSED TO
KNOW THAT?



HIS
STRENGTH!
THE WAY THE VERY
AIR PROTECTS
HIM!

OH,
PLEASE...!

AND HIS
KNOWLEDGE! FAR
WISER THAN ANY
CHILD HAS A RIGHT
TO BE! A SURE SIGN
OF A CHANGELING!



YOU'D
CONDEMN HIM
BECAUSE HE'S
INTELLIGENT?

WE'D
CONDEMN HIM
BECAUSE WE'RE
DYING THANKS TO
AN ILLNESS SPAT
UP BY SATAN, AND
HE'S SATAN'S
HELLSPAWN!



WE ALREADY
KILLED ALL THE
CATS, THOSE EVIL
CREATURES, AND
STILL THE DISEASE
SPREADS!

SO NOW
WE HAVE TO LOOK
ELSEWHERE!



THEN LOOK
ELSEWHERE! I'LL
NOT SACRIFICE MY
SON TO YOUR
RANTINGS!

SLAM







MISTER TRYP!

HMMM?

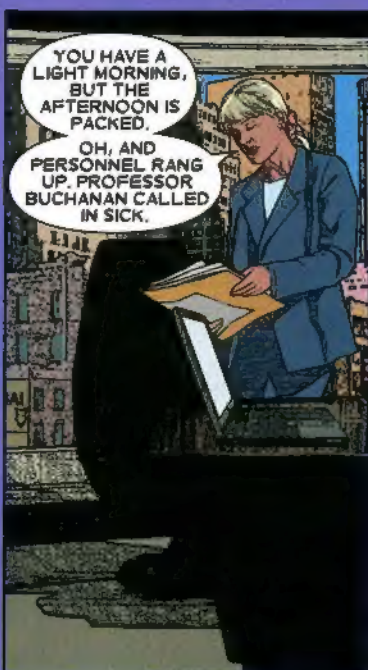


YOU'RE GETTING AN EARLY START TODAY. I SUPPOSE THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM.

TRUE ENOUGH... ALTHOUGH, AT THE END OF THE MORNING, YOU'RE JUST LEFT WITH WORM IN YOUR MOUTH.

STILL, A DAY IS A DAY. LIVES CAN BEGIN, END, AND CHANGE IN A DAY. SO EACH MUST BE TREATED AS PRECIOUS.

WHAT'S ON THE DOCKET, MRS. D?



YOU HAVE A LIGHT MORNING, BUT THE AFTERNOON IS PACKED.

OH, AND PERSONNEL RANG UP PROFESSOR BUCHANAN CALLED IN SICK.



ALL THESE YEARS, HENRY'S NEVER MISSED A DAY BEFORE. SORT OF THE IRON MAN OF SINGULARITY INVESTIGATIONS.



EVEN IRON MEN HAVE CHINKS IN THEIR ARMOR, MRS. D.

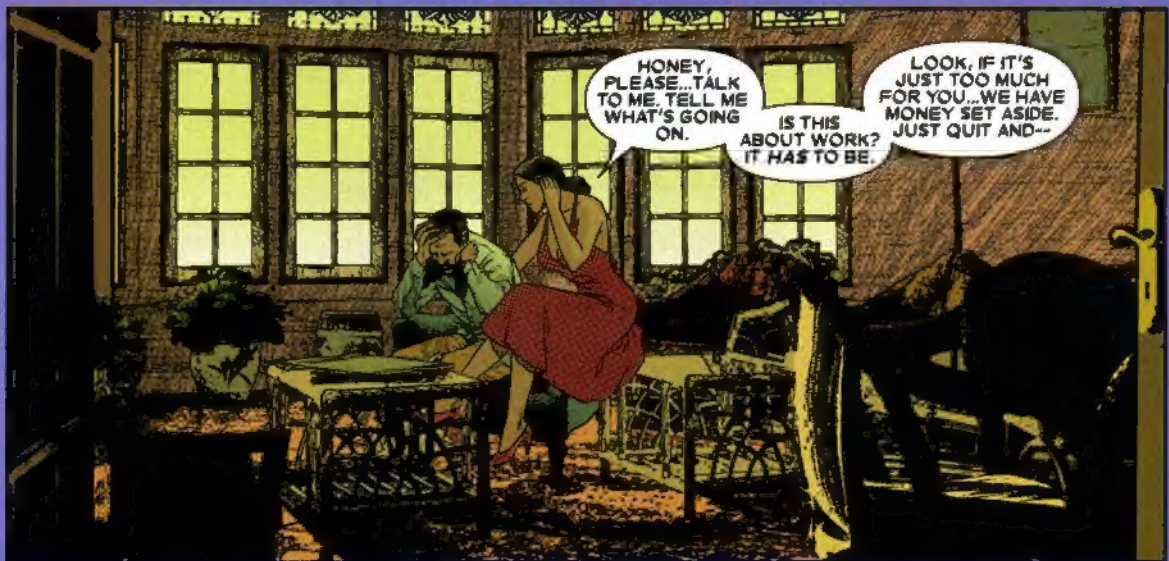
PLEASE GET ME MR. C'S NUMBER. I MAY HAVE TO GIVE HIM A CALL.



"HENRY, THIS IS INSANE. IT'S EATING YOU UP INSIDE."



YOU THINK I DON'T SEE IT? YOU THINK I DON'T... PLEASE, ALIX...I JUST... I NEED TO THINK.



HONEY, PLEASE...TALK TO ME. TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.

LOOK, IF IT'S JUST TOO MUCH FOR YOU...WE HAVE MONEY SET ASIDE. JUST QUIT AND--

IS THIS ABOUT WORK? IT HAS TO BE.



QUIT. HEH.

THAT'S RIGHT. QUIT AND FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO--



THERE'S NO "QUIT," ALIX. DON'T YOU GET THAT?

THERE'S NO OUT! NO RESIGNATION! NO! QUIT!

THEY'LL--

THEY'LL WHAT?



... DISAPPROVE.



PLEASE, HENRY...
I'M YOUR WIFE. IF
YOU CAN'T
TRUST ME...

IT'S NOT
A MATTER OF
TRUST. IF I TELL
YOU WHAT'S GOING ON,
I'M ENDANGERING
YOU. AND I WON'T
DO THAT.



MY GOD.
HENRY, IF IT'S
THAT BAD, YOU...
YOU HAVE TO GO
TO SOMEONE.

THE
POLICE...



THE POLICE ARE
USELESS FOR
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS.

THE
GOVERNMENT,
THEN...

YOU'VE NO IDEA
OF SINGULARITY'S
REACH. THEY HAVE
PEOPLE INSIDE THE
GOVERNMENT.



WELL, THERE
MUST BE SOMEONE
YOU CAN GO TO!

SOME
INDEPENDENT
ORGANIZATION,
SOME...

ALIX...I
WANT YOU TO
GET OUT OF TOWN.
PACK AND GO TO
YOUR SISTER'S CABIN
IN SEATTLE. DRIVE
THERE. PAY CASH
FOR EVERY-
THING.

WHAT? BUT...
WHAT ABOUT
YOU?

DON'T
WORRY ABOUT
ME.



X'D OUT

PART 1

DAILY BUGLE

FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK CITY

**X-FACTOR TO GOV'T:
DROP DEAD**



**UNPATRIOTIC MUTANT TEAM
PROTESTS REGISTRATION ACT**

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DAVID
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ARLEM
ART

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VC'S CORY
PETT
LETTERS

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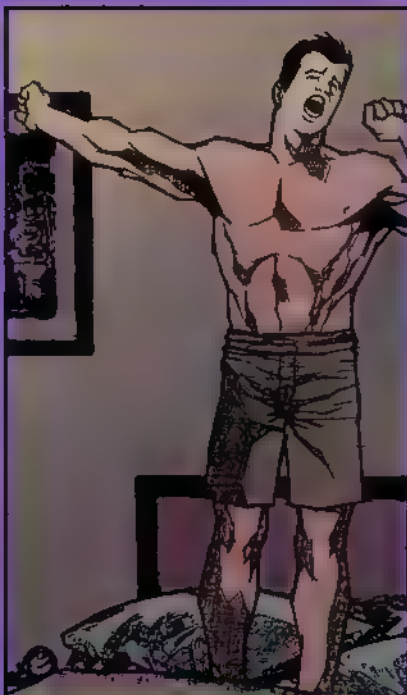
DAN
BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

YAAAAWWWWIN



I HALF EXPECTED TO WAKE UP IN PRISON AT THE VERY LEAST, I THOUGHT S.H.I.E.L.D. WOULD BE KICKING IN OUR DOOR

...NOT JUST FOR OUR "UP YOURS" PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT BECAUSE I HELPED AEGIS ESCAPE THE OTHER DAY THEY GOTTA KNOW IT WAS ME



INSTEAD NOTHING MAYBE THEY CAUGHT AEGIS ANYWAY AND JUST DECIDED TO LET ME SLIDE. AFTER ALL, THEY'VE ALREADY GOT OUR INFO FOR THE REGISTRATION ACT

OR MAYBE THEY'RE WATCHING TO SEE IF WE'RE PART OF AN UNDERGROUND, AND NAB MORE FUGITIVES THAT WAY. THE OTHER SHOE COULD DROP ON US AT ANY TIME

IF IT DOES, I HOPE IT DROPS QUIETLY. STUPID FREAKING HEADACHE

GEEZ...HOW MUCH DID I HAVE TO DRINK LAST NIGHT?



WELL, I GUESS I WAS ENTITLED IF YOU CAN'T GET HAMMERED BURNING EVERY FREAKING BRIDGE BEHIND YOU, WHEN CAN YOU?

IT'S STARTING TO COME BACK TO ME IN BITS AND PIECES

WEIRD THE WHOLE TEAM SEEMED SO PROUD OF ME EVEN THE ONES WHO DISAGREED WITH MY DECISION...



THEY SAID THEY RESPECTED ME FOR MAKING IT.

SAID THEY THOUGHT IT WAS GUTSY THAT I STOOD UP TO CYCLOPS

"GUTSY" HOW IS IT GUTSY WHEN YOUR STOMACH'S IN KNOTS?

YOU GONNA BE LONG IN THERE?



IT'S ALL YOURS

HUH?





A DUPE?

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU, OF COURSE, YOU DEVILISHLY HANDSOME FELLOW.

I KNOW! I MEAN HOW ARE YOU. I MEAN... WHEN DID I?

YOU BUMPED INTO A WALL. PRESTO! ME.



WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE CLOTHES?

I HAVE MY RESOURCES. *TSK* LOOK AT YOU. WE HAVE AN IMAGE TO MAINTAIN! CAN'T HAVE THE LADIES SEEING YOU SO DISHEVELED.

WE CAN'T?



THERE. SOME IMPROVEMENT

AND NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

WHAT, YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT?



LET'S SAY MORE OF A RETURN ENGAGEMENT.



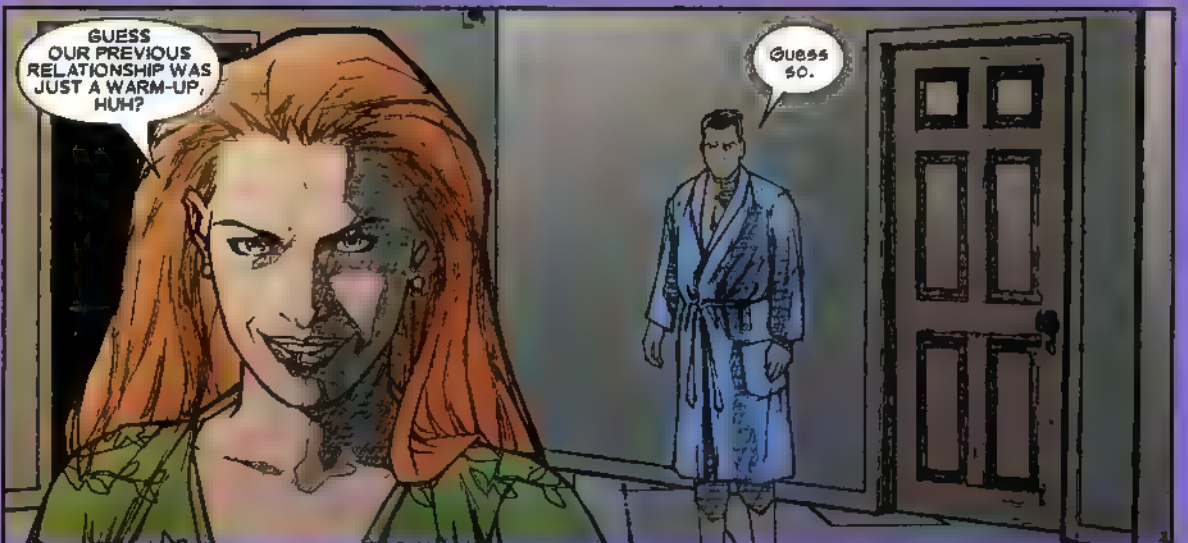
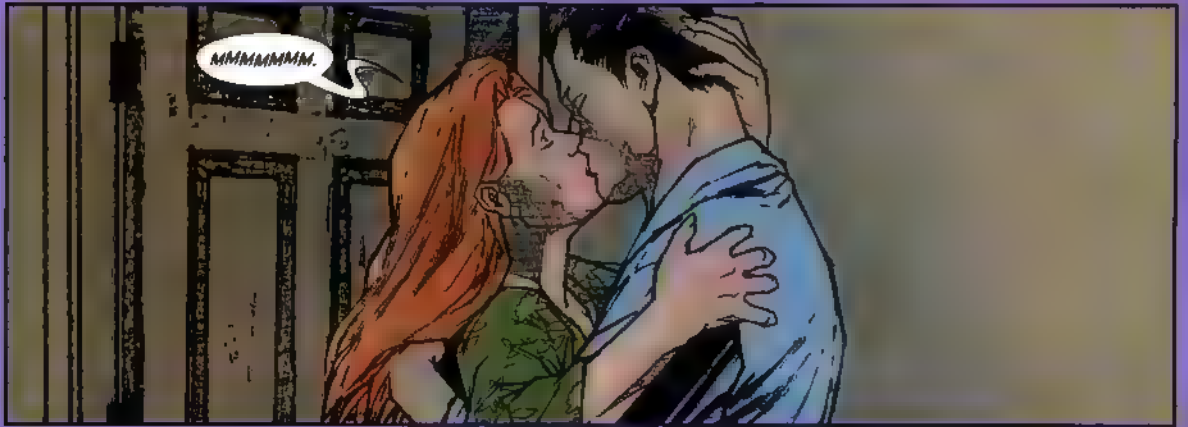
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT

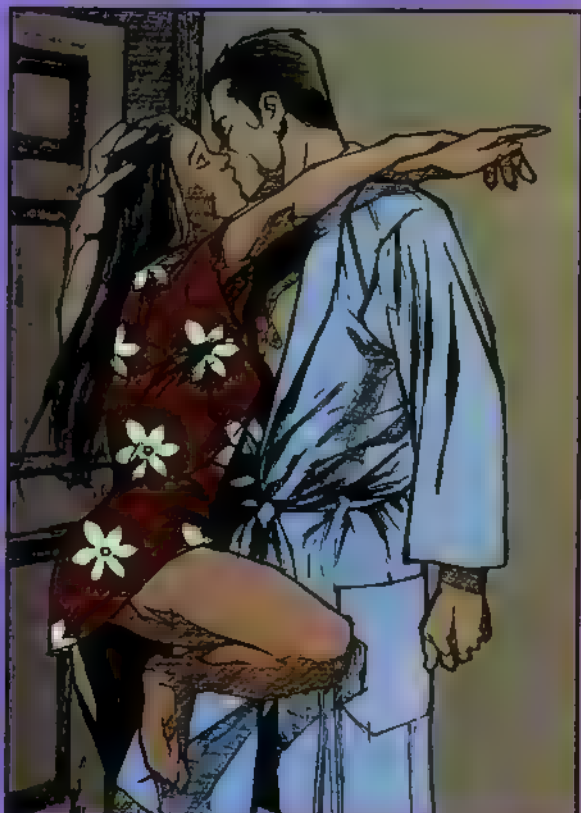


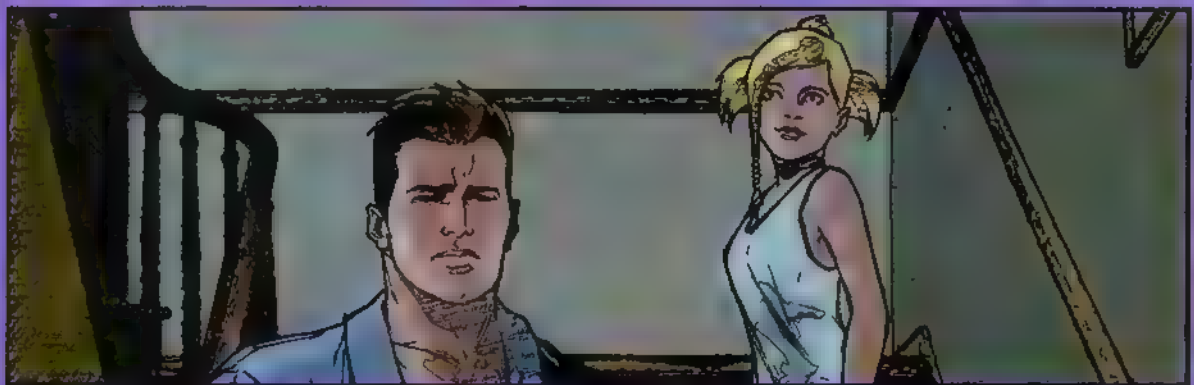
THERE. THAT SHOULD PUT AN END TO "HEF" HERE. WHAT A START TO--

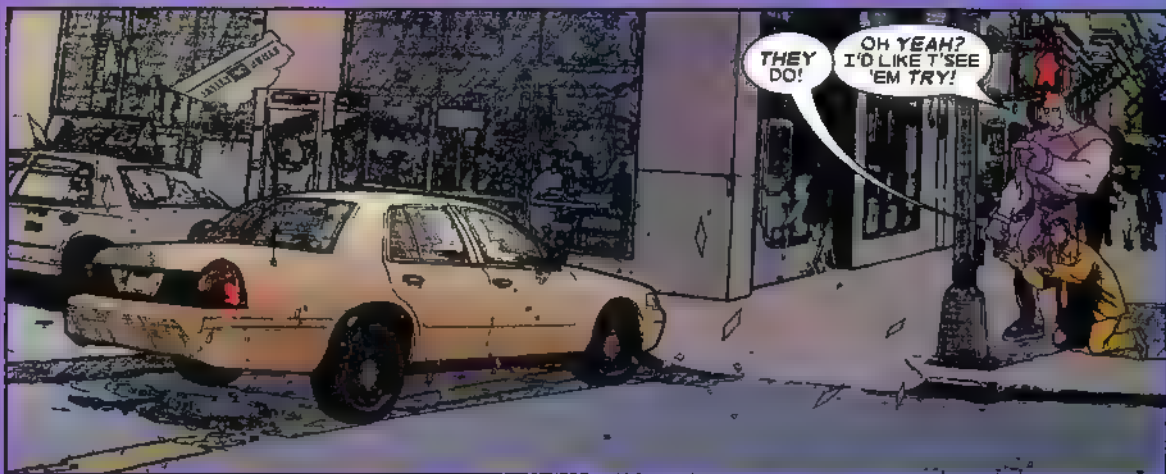


OH MY GOD













WHAT?!

I SAID, WHAT HAPPENED?

SORRY, CAN'T HEAR YA! GOT A RINGING IN MY EARS ON ACCOUNT O' SOMEBODY FIRED A FRICKIN' ROCKET LAUNCHER AT ME FROM, LIKE, TEN FEET AWAY!

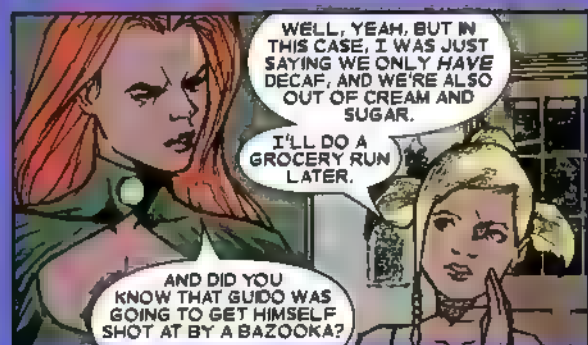


WHILE GUIDO GETS HIMSELF CLEANED UP, WE TRY TO CALM THE GUY--WHO IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS A PROFESSOR HENRY BUCHANAN... WHO INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, WORKS FOR SINGULARITY.

DECAF, NO CREAM, NO SUGAR

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

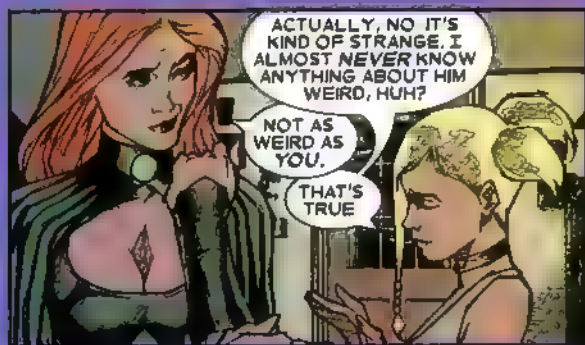
SHE KNOWS STUFF, DON'T YOU, LAYLA?



WELL, YEAH, BUT IN THIS CASE, I WAS JUST SAYING WE ONLY HAVE DECAF, AND WE'RE ALSO OUT OF CREAM AND SUGAR.

I'LL DO A GROCERY RUN LATER.

AND DID YOU KNOW THAT GUIDO WAS GOING TO GET HIMSELF SHOT AT BY A BAZOOKA?



ACTUALLY, NO IT'S KIND OF STRANGE. I ALMOST NEVER KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM WEIRD, HUH?

NOT AS WEIRD AS YOU.

THAT'S TRUE



SO WHAT'S UP WITH THE PROF HERE?

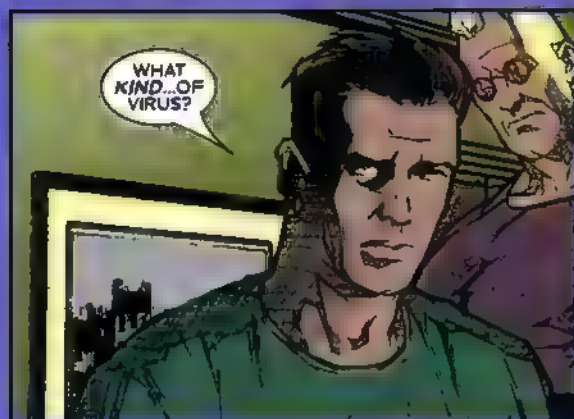
WE WERE HOPING HE WOULD TELL US.

HERE'S THE THING.
I'M A MICROBIOLOGIST.
MOSTLY MY WORK FOR S.I.
HAS BEEN FORENSIC BUT FOR
THE PAST YEAR, THEY'VE
HAD ME WORKING ON

ON
WHAT?
ON A
VIRUS



WHAT
KIND...OF
VIRUS?



ONE THAT
WOULD TARGET
AND KILL
MUTANTS



The
Legacy
virus?

WHAT?



YOU'RE
RE-CREATING
THE LEGACY
VIRUS?!

JAMIE!

WHAT KIND OF
INHUMAN SLIME
ARE YOU?!

JAMIE,
TAKE IT
EASY!

TAKE IT EASY?!
YOU TAKE IT EASY,
SY! YOU DIDN'T DIE
FROM IT! YOU--!

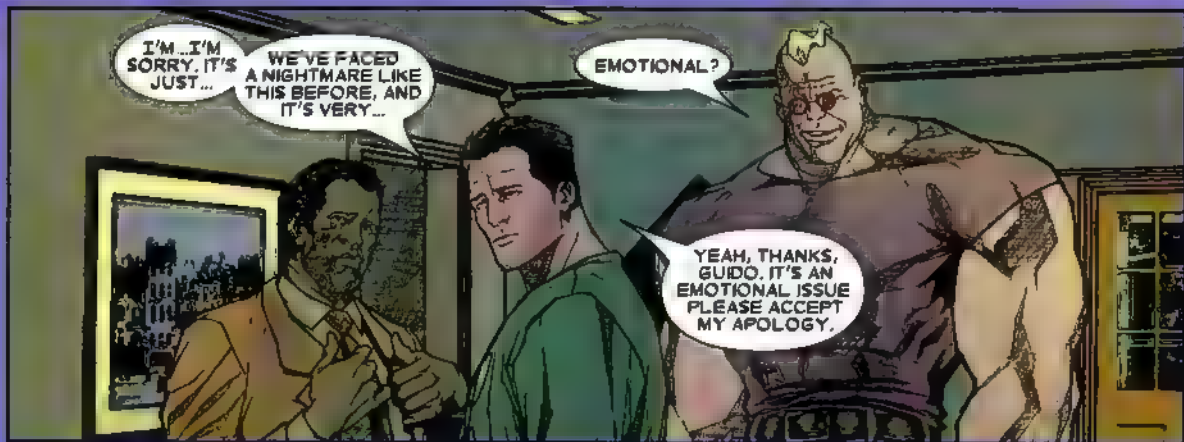


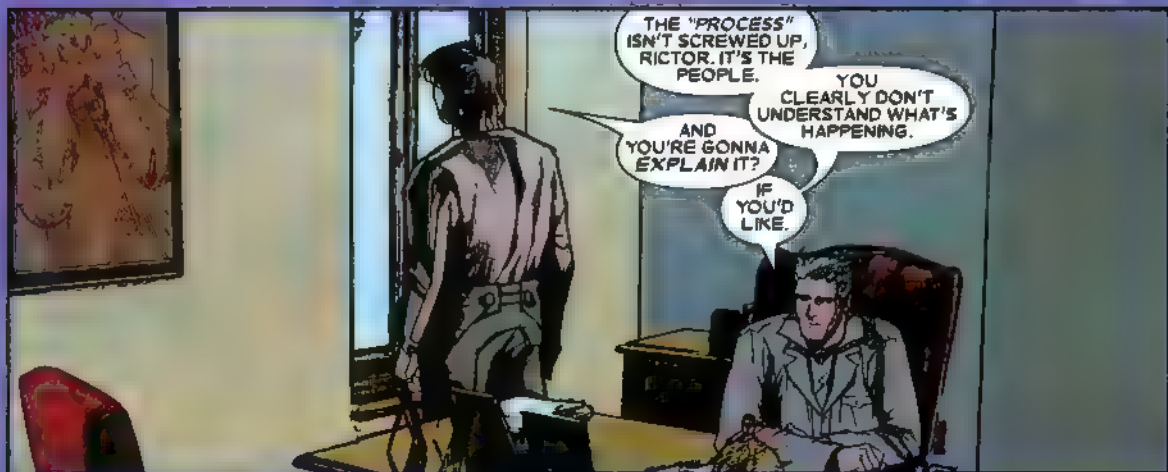
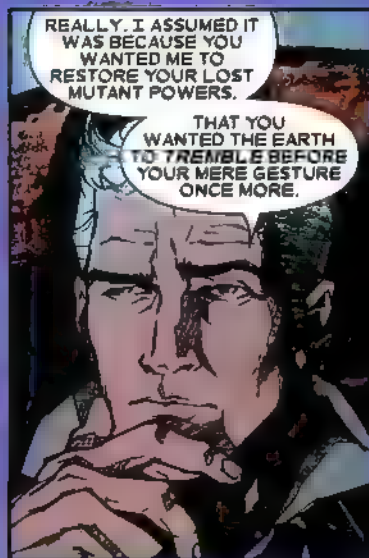
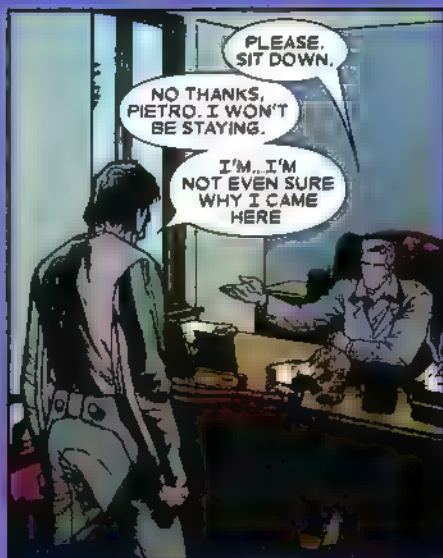
CALM DOWN,
FOR CRYING
OUT LOUD

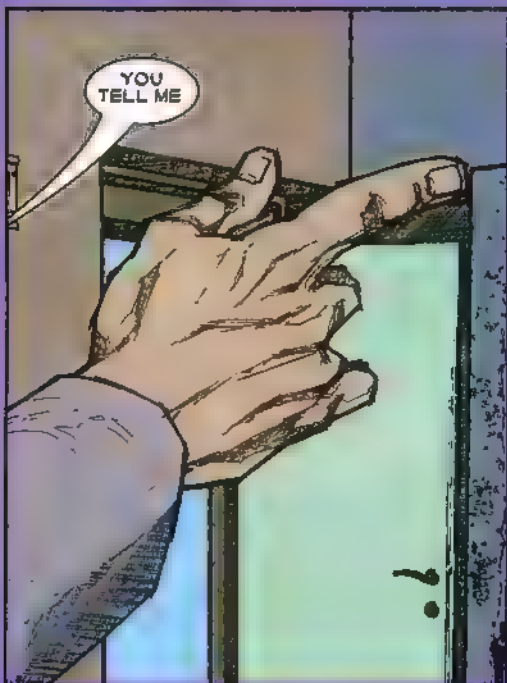
THIS MAN'S NOT
INHUMAN HE CAME
TO US FOR HELP.
HE OBVIOUSLY
WANTS TO STOP IT

GET IT
TOGETHER,
MADROX









X-FACTOR

Welcome, my friends, to the letter column that never ends. Peter David here, welcoming the many new readers who have joined our ranks. They came for the "Civil War," but they're staying for the noir. And I'm pleased to say that our reputation is spreading. We here at X-Central were flattered to find out that X-FACTOR was nominated for a Harvey Award for "Best New Series." One of the reasons I know this is because DC Comics actually sent me a copy of the Harvey ballot and urged me to vote for all DC titles. Yeah. That's gonna happen. So lessee what you have to say about our recent efforts. Letters, as always, are edited for length but not content:

Dear X-Central,

I have to admit, as a teen I didn't read too many comics, outside of X-MEN, and the original X-FACTOR was far from a favorite. Who am I kidding? I hated it. However, since getting back into comics two years ago, I've seen some good things and some bad things. I feel your writing style is a breath of fresh air, and you seem to actually focus more on drama than the action. There is nothing better than seeing how a character can develop through trials and tribulations. X-FACTOR and NEW X-MEN are currently my favorite X-titles.

I do have some suggestions and questions. A lot of readers don't seem to like Monet at all, but I think they fail to realize what you are trying to do with the character. It seems to me that she has a lot of insecurity issues about herself, but we've seen her soft side, especially when the maid was killed by the actor Vaughn. I would definitely love to see more of her issues come out and let the readers understand her completely.

I understand that there is a lot going on with the X-Factor Team, but one thing I would like to see resolved is Rahne's relationship with Dani. Dani was going to make peace with her before HOUSE OF M started, but now that she has lost her powers, Dani is at the lowest point in her life when she needs Rahne. Other than that, this has been a good series. Keep up the good work.

-Michael Vaden
[Via e-mail]

Boy, are you going to like X-FACTOR #13, Michael, in which Doc Samson (and we) get some further insight into what's going on in Monet's noggin. Plus her unexpected relationship with Jamie is going to reveal some previously unknown layers. But we've

no immediate plans to bring Dani Moonstar into the mix for the time being. Our aim is to focus on the relationships of the X-FACTOR cast, which is already large enough. We're not ruling out a possible guest-shot by Dani, but no time soon.

Dear X-Central,

Hey, I just finished X-FACTOR #9. I want you to know how much I love this series. You really know how to bring the funny. Layla Miller cracks me up. You took a throwaway character and made her the star of a series. Please tell me she was serious when she told Jamie they would get married in the future. She reminds me of the files and records girl from "Angel" Season Three. I know you said this series would resemble the "Angel" TV series. Is that where you got her mannerisms from?

- Christopher Goodnight
[Via e-mail]

Well, Christopher, I don't recall ever actually saying that. I know some fans have claimed there's a resemblance. I can certainly see why they say that, considering "Angel" was populated by vampires, demons, and a god, and the primary opponent was an evil law firm, whereas X-FACTOR...hmmm. On second thought, no, I can't see why they say that. As for the "files and records" girl, if you mean the creepy kid in the white room...no. She's exactly the way she was described: Nostradamus reincarnated as Wednesday Addams, although I admit some of her style is influenced by Radar O'Riley from "M*A*S*H." As for whether she was serious about marrying Jamie: Yeah. She was.

Dear X-Central,

As time goes on, Dennis Calero is more and more acceptable; doesn't always happen, you know! What happened to Ryan Sook anyway? He really dropped off the face, so to speak. How come Madrox and Rahne always called Cyclops "Scotty" in this ish, when his own teammates all called him just Scott? Does it have anything to do with Scotty Steiner????

Any Aegis appearance is okay by me, and I'm not just saying that cause you hyped him up with the dialogue. What does that guy's future hold? Probably nothing! Every new character in the late 90's had force field powers. But there's something going on with the New Warriors that yer not telling us,

right, Marvel? I'd love to read a new series, actually. I read all three of the others!

Oh, and Quicksilver is back, huh? Does this mean they're actually gonna GO on a mission or two?! I still think X-FACTOR is okay, but what about a year or two from now, hm? Sales are bound to fall regardless, and without big changes—we still have a gent called Strong Guy on the team, ya know—this book will lag. I want to at least see a big encounter between X-Factor and the current U.S. Government strike team: Thunderbolts! And why not, right? Hey, if Aegis can show up...!

Andrew J. Shaw
[Via e-mail]

I'm really not sure where to start, Andrew, except to say that a year from now, we certainly hope that sales will continue to climb and, eventually, we'll be the highest-selling mutant title in the Marvel Universe. Yes, I know. It sounds ridiculous. But hey...they laughed at Louis Pasteur when he announced the invention of the steamboat, and look how well that turned out!



**Don't stop here!
Read to the end of
the issue--then
we'll talk.**

BRAD JOHANSEN
Production

ANDY SCHMIDT
Editor

JOE QUESADA
Chief

X-FACTOR C/O MARVEL COMICS
417 5TH AVE., NEW YORK, NY 10016

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KRUUNCH



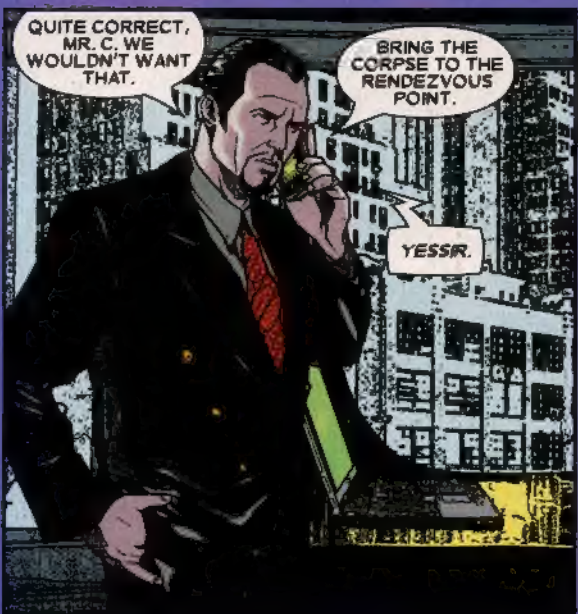
KCHHHHHH

K--



OKAY, IT'S DONE.

GOTTA HANG UP NOW. THERE'S LAWS AGAINST TALKING ON A CELL PHONE. WOULDN'T WANNA BE PULLED OVER.



QUITE CORRECT, MR. C. WE WOULDN'T WANT THAT.

BRING THE CORPSE TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT.

YESSR.



MRS. D? PLEASE INFORM PERSONNEL THAT HENRY BUCHANAN WON'T BE BACK. IT APPEARS HE HAS MOVED ON.

YES, MR. TRYP.

**LUCKY
SCAN**

"IT'S TOASTED"

D C P

S C A N